

## Church Council Minutes Union Church, February 15, 2021

**Present:** Joan English (Recorder), Dave Kobersmith (Staff), Marty Hensley (Finance), Jennifer Melton (Worship), Carla Gilbert (church member), Kent Gilbert (Pastor), Kim Kobersmith (Nominating), Amy Schill (CL&G), Jean Boyce (Vice Moderator), Bob Boyce (Properties), Mary Lou Wiese (Nurture & Care), Linda Parsons (clerk), Ellen Mink (Admin), Betty Hibler (M&S)

A quorum was present. Betty offered the devotional, a prayer by Walter Brueggeman from [Ourselves at the Center](#). January minutes approved as distributed.

**Finance Report.** Marty reported. We ended 2020 VERY slightly “in the black” - \$355. Thus far into 2021, we are \$6700 behind. Some of that can be attributed to one-time expenses due at the first of the year (inc. \$5200 in property insurance), but giving is down. We are 15 Pledge Units lower than last year. Discussion – some can be attributed to people moving away, deaths, but some simply did not choose to pledge – likely due to the insecurity of Covid. Mary Lou noted that there is a LOT of other giving going on – to RITI, Medical Debt, support for Robert Rorrer.

### For Action:

- **Date for the Annual Meeting** will be March 21, 3 pm via Zoom. **Annual Reports** from Board Chairs and Officers due March 1.
- **Funding Request Regarding Memorial Garden maintenance.** We charge \$250 for interment in the Garden and a plaque on the stone. The plaque costs \$129 and the excess is used for garden maintenance performed by The Garden Bard. It’s not quite enough for what we pay for maintenance and the occasional purchase of new plants. Dave proposes moving monies from 3010-Unrestricted Memorials (\$937.52) and 3120.02-Misc memorials (\$62.48) to 3120.02 Memorial Garden.

**Bob moved to allow expenditure from both accounts to satisfy Memorial Garden needs for this year (estimate of \$1000). Ellen seconded, motion passed.**

- Other Requests? Not this month, but looking ahead we will need to pay Mark Hayes \$4000 for composing a musical piece for the church. Will need to decide in May from what account to take that. Worship Board is in favor.

### Board Updates:

- Admin – working on Pastor’s Terms of Call; doing a study of salary ranges
- FD – Lent packets in process, have identified some early spring projects
- Mission –Bread for the World is focusing on 4 issues: Food Systems, Climate, Racial/Gender inequities, Economic Justice
- N&C – have several people who have applied, or plan to apply, to become Stephen Ministers. Our current Stephen Minister relationships are ongoing by Zoom and are still viable, although it’s becoming a struggle (Zoom fatigue)
- Properties – the Board has had Dave perform an energy audit
- Worship – looking forward to in-person worship. Making some very preliminary plans. Oddly, the success we have had in doing virtual worship is raising barriers to in-person worship
- Nominating – still seeking to fill a few positions, including Church Council Chair
- Pastor’s report – Lent theme will be Holy Vessels. Many pastoral care needs, as we are near the end of a complete year of dealing with Covid. Kent has discovered that he had Covid in the past – has antibodies that indicate he’s been infected, but was asymptomatic. No telling when that was, but it was many months ago. Carla has been very busy with members’ needs. Out of town friends have been visiting at Sunday Coffee hours and Wednesday coffees with Kent. The Feb. 6 Meditation Retreat was very successful.

Discussion of Room in the Inn (RITI). It is at the point of bursting. The hotel model is very successful. Kim wondered what else we can do as a church. John McCutcheon’s March 4 concert will generate some funds, Shirley and Tennant are

cooking like mad. Kent reported that the Kentucky Housing & Homeless Coalition has made \$297,000 available for mortgage and rent relief, payable back to March 2020.

Kent prayed us out.

Next meeting March 15. Mary Lou will offer the devotional. Funding requests will next be considered in May.

Joan English